

Imperial College Union

DRAFT ANNUAL REPORT: 2006/07 TEXT

Appendix A

Introduction

Imperial College Union is required under the conditions of its Memorandum of Understanding with Imperial College to present an annual report and audited financial statements for the year 2005/06 to the Imperial College Council. The purpose of this document is to summarise the key achievements of the ICU in the academic year 2006/07, to set out plans for the 2007/08 academic year, and to demonstrate that the ICU has been run in a fair and democratic manner and is accountable for its finances.

This report was endorsed by the ICU Executive Committee on June 7th 2007 and by the ICU Council, which is the sovereign body of the Union, on June 11th 2007.

Key achievements

Beit refurbishment project

The first phase of the Beit Refurbishment project was delivered below the original budget of £1.4M and the main elements of the project were delivered on time. This phase involved the wholesale refurbishment of the core of the Beit Building. The redecoration of the ground floor commercial outlets, the installation of an Electronic Point of Sale system in the Union trading outlets, the refurbishment of the existing lift and the installation of a larger DDA compliant lift. This project has breathed life into a decaying building and the whole of the Beit Quadrangle environment has benefited from this investment.

Throughout the 2006/07 academic year the Union has developed plans for the second phase of the long term Beit Master-plan refurbishment programme. A bid for a College grant has been submitted which, along with funds acquired from other sources, would allow for the creation of a centralised Student Activity and Resource Centre on the second floor of the Beit Building, the relocation of the multi-use gym to the third floor and the relocation of meeting rooms to the East Basements.

Governance reforms

Following a wide consultation of the student body, the College and legal experts, ICU has implemented a radically new model of governance that will come into effect on August 1st 2007. The Union was motivated to conduct this governance review to ensure that it is compliant with the incoming Charities Act 2006 and in response to concerns expressed by the student body in the 2004/05 Strategic Review exercise.

The centre-piece of the new governance structure is a sovereign, skilled, small Board of Trustees that will be chaired by College Governor, Ram Gidoomal CBE for the duration of the 2007/08 academic session, during which the board will take on a temporary transitional remit. This board will be formed of four democratically elected student trustees, three senior union officers and four external lay trustees. It will be tasked to improve the governance of ICU as a non exempt charity and will aspire to the highest levels of transparent, strategic governance.

The student union Council will continue to set broad policy of ICU, subject to Trustee Board resolutions, and the Executive Committee will continue to oversee the administration of the organisation. A new quasi-external body, known as the ICU Court, has been created to mediate in disputes, oversee disciplinary appeals and conduct elections in a transparent, apolitical manner. The Council, Executive and Court will form a tripartite governance structure, making ICU unique amongst other London student unions.

Further minor changes to the governance structure of the Union include the re-introduction of a Health and Safety Committee and the creation of a Representation and Welfare Board to oversee academic, welfare and campaigning matters. Equality and campaign portfolios have also been created to encourage students interested in campaigning to engage in the democratic structures of ICU. Whilst it is early to tell if these changes have been successful, early signs suggest that the Representation and Welfare Board is working extremely well.

NUS affiliation and transition

In light of Imperial College's withdrawal from the University of London and, consequently, ICU's withdrawal from the University of London Union, the student body elected to hold a cross campus referendum to re-affiliate to the National Union of Students. This referendum was held in November 2006 and recorded a "yes" vote by 53% against 47%. ICU was officially welcomed into NUS membership at the National Conference held in Blackpool on March 29th 2007. Since the result of the referendum ICU has worked closely with NUS to ensure a smooth transition into full NUS membership.

Centenary Celebrations

ICU has fully engaged in the College's Centenary celebrations and has contributed in a number of ways. The President chaired a sub-group of the College's programme and represented the Union at Centenary Board Meetings. The ICSMSU President was nominated Project Manager and played an important role on co-ordinating the Union's centenary events. Highlights of the Centenary celebrations so far include:

- A Centenary launch event, which saw the launch of a balloon race in Beit Quad,
- The Centenary Science Challenge essay writing competition, which saw over 100 schools and 100 imperial entrants take part, in an effort

to promote science communication amongst the general public. Judges included Simon Singh, Raj Persaud, Roger Highfield and Robert Winston and culminated in a centenary celebration at the Ritz London,

- A Centenary University Challenge Quiz, which created a united Imperial team to enter in the national televised competition,
- A Centenary Ball, which has broken records in ticket sales and raised tens of thousands of pounds for the Beit Centenary appeal,
- A plethora of sporting events, including varsity matches, a marathon runner and a bike race from Land's End to John o'Groats.

Next academic year the Union hopes to build on the successes of these events and develop closer ties with out alumni.

Staffing

In line with the introduction of a new EPoS system in the Union's trading outlets, following changes to the Union's governance structures and in order to improve management in ICU, the Senior Management Team and Commercial Services Division have been restructured.

Stuart Williamson joined the Union as new Trading Manager. He is responsible for leading all Beit trading activities and heads a new trading team comprising by Franceso Atanasio (bars), Andrea Alleyne (catering), Malcolm MacPherson (Entertainments) and David Ashton (Administration).

Following a review of the Deputy President (Graduate Students) role it has been resolved that the position should be reformed and replaced with a volunteer position with additional staff support. The Union intends to create a new position to support Postgraduate representation both centrally through ICU and also through its Faculty Unions.

Service Level Agreements

This academic year the Union has worked closely with Imperial College to establish service level agreements for the support services of the College. Whilst agreements have been reached for the Human Resources, Facilities Management and Information and Communication Technology divisions, further work is needed before both parties will be in a position to adopt an agreement with the Finance division.

Sports Partnership

In January 2007 the Union launched a Sports Partnership with Sport Imperial with a view to improving collaboration and support for all sporting activities at Imperial College.

PhD Students' Pay

Following widespread consultation and a successful presentation to the College's Strategic Education Committee, the College has agreed that all PhD

students should receive London weighted bursaries from the next academic year. This move will have an extremely positive impact on the welfare of hundreds of postgraduate students at Imperial College. Indeed, some students can expect to see an increase in their grant in excess of £5K thanks to this agreement.

Degree Classifications

Student representatives have identified inconsistencies in the College's degree classification awards between departments and highlighted several departments where the proportion of 1st class and upper 2nd class degrees being awarded is significantly below the proportions awarded by other leading institutions. Following a paper to the Senate and a presentation to the Strategic Education Committee, the College has resolved to increase the proportion of 1st and 2:1 degrees to be awarded to 70% of all degrees.

Appraisals

For the second year in a row, the Union conducted 360 degree appraisals of all of its senior staff and Sabbatical Officers. The results from this exercise were very positive, with many contributors commenting that the Sabbatical team was one of the strongest teams there has been at Imperial College for many years.

Future Plans

Over the course of the next year ICU will endeavour to:

1. Work with the recently introduced governance reforms and ensure that they are established and strengthened,
2. Identify a vision, mission, purpose and values for the organisation and communicate them to our stakeholders,
3. Prepare for next Strategic Plan, to be led by the new Trustee Board,
4. Register with the Charities Commission and ensure that the Union complies with best practice and operational guidance,
5. Improve staff training and induction procedures to ensure that all staff members buy in to the values of the organisation,
6. Develop a coherent communications and sponsorship strategy,
7. Improve financial reporting and scrutiny.

Elections and referenda

Elections of the four Sabbatical Offices who will take officer during the 2007/08 academic year were successfully held in March 2007. Elections for Faculty Union Presidents and the Chair of the Graduate Students' Association were successfully undertaken between March and June 2007. This year an unprecedented number of officers and representatives elections were conducted using the online voting system. Turnout for the Sabbatical Officer elections was registered at just under 13%, which is slightly lower than last year's turnout. The election results for senior officers are given in the table below.

Position	Holder	Department
ICU President	Stephen Brown	Mathematics
ICU Deputy President (Clubs & Societies)	Alistair Cott	Materials
ICU Deputy President (Education & Welfare)	Kirsty Patterson	ESE
ICU Deputy President (Finance & Services)	Chris Larvin	ESE
C&GCU (Engineering Faculty Union) President	Tristan Sherliker	Bioengineering
ICSMSU (Medicine Faculty Union) President	Timothy Wills	Medicine
RCSU (Nat. Sciences Faculty Union) President	Jennifer Morgan	Life Sciences
Graduate Students' Association Chair	TBA	TBA

One referendum was held this year on the question on whether ICU should affiliate to the National Union Students. After a vibrant and at time heated debate, the student body voted to affiliate to the NUS in a cross campus referendum that saw the highest level of turnout ever recorded at Imperial College (30%).

ICU Affiliations and Donations

In the 2006/07 academic year ICU affiliated to or donated money to the following external organisations:

Organisation	Affiliation	Donation	Total
CHASE Hospice Care for Children		31,996.98	31,996.98
Islamic Relief		7,042.88	7,042.88
Nicholls Spinal Injury		5,000.00	5,000.00
Operation Framework		3,000.00	3,000.00
Medecins Sans Frontieres		2,118.30	2,118.30
Cosmic		1,300.00	1,300.00
Unicef UK		873.99	873.99
Kashmiri International Relief		740.95	740.95
Fund for Epilepsy		80.00	80.00
Advice UK	200.00		200.00
Aiuchi Jiu Jitsu Association	250.00		250.00
Amateur Football Alliance	428.00		428.00
Amateur Rowing Assoc	815.00		815.00
Assoc of British Theatre Tech	175.00		175.00
British Collegiate Parachute	35.00		35.00
British Mountaineering Club	287.50		287.50
British Sub-Aqua Club	1,143.50		1,143.50
British Uni Ice Hockey Assoc	10.00		10.00
Capoeira Abolicao UK	191.00		191.00
Central Table Tennis League	111.90		111.90
English Hockey	260.00		260.00
English Lacrosse Assoc	118.00		118.00
European Medical Students' Association	89.19		89.19
Fire Service Perservation Group	25.00		25.00
Lasham Gliding Soc	1,248.51		1,248.51

London Society of Referees	493.50		493.50
Medsin UK	100.00		100.00
Middlesex County RFU Ltd	40.00		40.00
Motor Sports Asscoiation	56.00		56.00
National Hindu Students Forum	256.50		256.50
National Postgraduate Committee	632.00		632.00
National Student Television Association	115.00		115.00
National Union of Students	20,000.00		20,000.00
Social Sports Ltd	400.00		400.00
Surrey Rifle Assoc	225.00		225.00
The British Judo Assoc	50.00		50.00
The Jitsu Foundation	300.00		300.00
UKCOSA	299.51		299.51
Uni & College Tenpin Bowling	120.00		120.00
United Hospital Cricket Club	450.00		450.00
United Hospital RFC	300.00		300.00
United Hospitals Music	100.00		100.00
United Nations Association - UK	42.00		42.00
Vintage & Veteran Motor Club	55.00		55.00
Association of Managers in Students' Unions	700.00		700.00
British Caving Association	55.00		55.00
British Fencing Association	40.00		40.00
British Gliding Association	542.75		542.75
British University Sports Association	10,975.75		10,975.75
British Universities Snowsports Council	150.00		150.00
Federation of Student Islamic Societies	10.00		10.00
Grand National Archery Society	97.00		97.00
Kent County Football Association	162.90		162.90
National Association of Student Money Advisors	55.00		55.00
National Smallbore Rifle Association	123.63		123.63
Rugby Football Union for Women	117.00		117.00
Southern England Students Sports Association	260.00		260.00
Inter Varsity Dance Association	25.00		25.00
Southern University Dance Club	25.00		25.00
Grand Total	42,761.14	52,153.10	94,914.24